

What does God expect from us (as disciples)?

Most of us have had enough of a time figuring out what we want to eat for dinner, let alone figuring out what God wants us to do or expects from us. A very common thought pattern for many followers of Christ goes something like, ‘if I only knew what God’s will for me is, then...’ It’s like we want God to send us a clear message or a sign or something.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Whether we know it or not, God has a special calling for everyone’s life, and He points us in the direction He wants us to go. Scripture reminds us of this repeatedly. We either believe it and walk in it, or we don’t. And even if we are trying to walk in it, we find it’s often difficult to truly tune-in to God. There’s so much noise coming at us from all directions. There’s so much demand and expectation coming at us from all directions. And all the while, there’s a still, small voice telling us there’s a better way... a gentle whisper from the Holy Spirit asking us to let go and let Him. The truth is, God wants us to know and pursue the special calling He has for our lives. The question we need to answer is whether we’re ready and willing to go there.

So, if we are ready and willing to go where God desires, here’s some of what God expects...

God expects us to discover our talents.

Discovering our talents is a process that usually requires some time and effort. Knowing and being aware of our talents, Spiritual Gifts, and other resources that can influence God’s Kingdom is necessary to achieving the life that God intends for us.

Romans 12:6-8 says, “In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”

People who take the time to discover and are in touch with their God-given gifts can understand their function, become acclimated, and fulfill their purpose within the Body of Christ.

So, it seems appropriate and Biblical to say that God expects us, as followers of Jesus Christ, to look inward, reflect on our life experiences, realize He’s been orchestrating something for the good and

allowing certain talents to be cultivated within us for a reason, and then use those gifts to serve others for the sake of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:5 says, "...we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake." (*italics added*).

God expects us to take our spiritual walk seriously.

It's important we take our spiritual walk seriously. It's a matter of Biblical proportions. In 2 Corinthians 6:1, the Apostle Paul writes, "As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it." Another translation says, "We... plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain."

Many of us seek God when we're in situations of need and dismiss our Spiritual walk with Him when everything is going well. Imagine a relationship with God where we're not simply focused on what He gives us, but instead we're focused on our need for Him, receiving what He gives us to meet that need, and then, practically applying His Word as we follow Jesus Christ and glorify Him by multiplying what He gives us.

God expects us to give back.

One of the greatest things God expects from all disciples of Jesus Christ is to give back. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." When we use our blessings to help others, we advance God's kingdom and practice the love God intended us to practice. In John's Gospel, specifically chapters 14 and 15, the apostle records Jesus Christ telling us to follow His example in receiving the Father's love and passing it on to others. The Lord says He's going to give us the Holy Spirit to empower us as we do the things He did and love others as He's loved us.

Giving back is figuring out what Jesus Christ did and why He did it, and then picking up where He left off. It involves promoting the Great Commandment and fulfilling the Great Commission. We give back by loving God and others, and then making disciples. This is literally the point of our existence here on earth. It's what God expects from us in response to what He provides.

God expects us to pray.

Scripture calls us to, "Search for the LORD and for His strength; continually seek Him" (1 Chronicles 16:11). Prayer is important. Prayer strengthens our relationship with God and connects our spirit with the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

When we aren't in a committed and prayerful relationship with God, we're more susceptible to the deceptions of the enemy and temptations of the world. We're in the flesh rather than led by the Spirit of God. However, when we are in a committed and prayerful relationship with God, and through prayer, listen to what God is saying, we better understand His will, what He might be telling us, and what He expects from us.

God expects us to believe and trust Him through obedience.

God wants to lead us into all the good things He has in store for us. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them."

Even when we don't know exactly where God is leading us, we should understand that He is constantly speaking to us and trying to direct our path.

God expects us to remember that He is the LORD our God who has rescued us out of slavery, and act accordingly (see Exodus 20).